WOULD YOU CLEAN THIS MAN'S TEETH?

SHEEN REPORTEDLY PULLS KNIFE ON DENTIST. PAGE 23

metro

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Weekend, October 3-5, 2014 www.metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

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The book is now the movie. "Gone Girl" star Rosamund Pike discusses bringing one of the most fascinating characters in modern literature to the screen. Author Gillian Flynn discusses the elements she had to cut to make her adaptation work. PAGE 14

NEW 'GIRL'

Rosamund Pike and Ben Affleck star in "Gone Girl." / MERRICK MORTON

More taxis could be on their way downtown

PAGE 05

Smells like Perfume Genius has arrived

PAGE 19

Eagles look to bounce back versus lowly Rams

PAGE 26

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1 NEWS

Local tweet

"What's the point of a boardwalk in philly with no beach"

You're missing the point, @Pgo_E.

Top 3

What's trending online at Metro.us

1 'Michael Phelps blew a .14 after DUI pullover'

2 'Husband gets 41 months prison in "Real Housewives of New Jersey" fraud case

3 '"Naked Therapy" helps clients strip away their problems'

'Dungeon' suspect's art, letters for sale online

America. A California artist is selling demented letters allegedly by one of the Tacony "House of Horrors" suspects.

Above are photos that Linda Ann Weston allegedly drew that are now for sale. The "House of Horrors" in Tacony, bottom left, was uncovered in 2011. / PROVIDED, FILE PHOTO

It's known as "murderabilia" — the sale of the letters, possessions and mementos of famous criminals to collectors.

Now it includes the letters and drawings of Linda Ann Weston, who allegedly kept mentally disabled adults captive in a Tacony home and allegedly starved two to death while collecting their benefits checks.

"I will be the first to admit that I am a 'modern day smut peddler,'" said Kelly Hutchison, a San Diego artist who runs DarkVomit.com, where the Weston collection is being sold, via email.

Hutchison won't say how much he paid, which are for sale for $65 to $85 each.

He said a "pen pal" of Weston's who is studying social services at college sold him the letters — which Weston purportedly wrote and sent from prison within the last few months, along with drawings.

One shows Jesus. Another shows one of the Seven Dwarfs masturbating.

"I do find the art and letters of Linda's to be quite fascinating," Hutchison said. "Her handwriting is childlike and her writing is very erratic. The drawings that she includes with her letters do not make any sense and they are so bizarre and weird."

Weston's defense attorney, Patricia McKinney, criticized the sale.

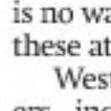
"No matter how low the bar is set for capitalizing on the mentally ill, it doesn't surprise me that someone is always willing to go lower," McKinney said. "It's also interesting that there is no way of authenticating these at all."

Weston and three others, including her daughter, were arrested in October 2011 after four adults were found captive in their basement, as well as Weston's niece, whom she was fostering for DHS.

Weston is charged with murder for the deaths of two mentally disabled women whom she allegedly kept captive at other locations.

She is pleading insanity, but the feds say she masterminded the scheme for profit. Prosecutors are considering seeking the death penalty against Weston.

"After researching her case further ... it almost appears that she is going out of her way to sound and look 'crazy' in these letters, [or] else she is medicating on very serious drugs," Hutchison said.



SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

'Murderabilia'

Killers don't make money from murderabilia.

- Possessions of celebrity murderers like David Berkowitz, Ted Bundy and John Wayne Gacy have been sold, usually through a third party, such as a relative or prison guard.
- Around Philly, murderabilia has included dirt from the basement of serial killer Gary Heidnik, for $40 and a certificate.

Visit **Metro.us** for more info on the DarkVomit.com murderabilia shop.

Speech. Don't let 'cop killer' talk: Toomey

Sen. Pat Toomey (R-Pa.) blasted Goddard College's announcement that convicted cop-killer Mumia Abu-Jamal would tape a speech to be shown at the Vermont school's commencement this weekend calling it "warped" and "unbelievable."

"It's despicable and appalling that a college would want to offer this platform to an unrepentant cop killer," Tooney said on the Dom Giordano radio show.

Abu-Jamal in 1996 got his bachelor's degree from Goddard while in prison. He was convicted in 1981 of killing Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner.

Goddard students chose Abu-Jamal as a speaker. His speech will be shown to 20 graduates. METRO

Philadelphia

Firefighter, girlfriend charged with assault

A Philadelphia firefighter and his girlfriend have been charged with assaulting the firefighter's pregnant ex-wife and her current boyfriend twice last month, authorities reported.

Firefighter Michael Lawson, 38, and Sada Greenlee, 28, were charged overnight with two assaults on the couple, first on Sept. 15, and then on Sept. 30. Lawson's ex-wife is reportedly eight months pregnant. METRO

Michael Lawson and Sada Greenlee are scheduled for a court hearing on Oct. 20. / PPD

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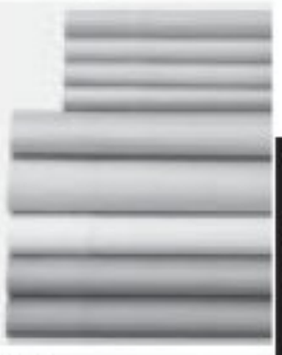

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Celebrating LGBT History Month

The Philadelphia Gay Men's Chorus performed at an event kicking off LGBT history month with the raising of the rainbow flag, inset, outside of City Hall on Thursday. It will fly during all of October. "I am a lifelong advocate and supporter of Philadelphia's LGBT citizens and will continue to fight for just and equal treatment of LGBT individuals," Mayor Michael Nutter said.

CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Archdiocese

Catholics sell land for $56M

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia cashed in on three pieces of land to help cover its glaring and growing deficit.

Generating a total $56 million, the archdiocese knocked down its deficit from $39 million to $5 million.

Officials said the money will go toward shoring up a priest pension fund as well as a trust and loan fund, but pension and liability costs remain high.

Among the pieces was a 200-acre Delaware County strip that is slated for redevelopment. METRO

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Cabs. David Oh calls for 300 more taxis with accessability

David Oh said he understands: The city's high-wage tax makes it hard for new businesses to set up shop.

So his idea is to add more cabs. Not just any cabs though; he wants eco-friendly cars that are handicap-accessible and outfitted with bike racks.

"I've been working on this for a while," Oh said. "And I think it's doable."

During Council on Thursday, Oh introduced a resolution — or formal expression of opinion — aimed at the state legislature, asking it to issue 300 more medallions for these modified cabs.

Here's the catch: Oh wants to cut the city wage tax and use the revenue from the new 300 to help make up for the tax cut. Currently, the city's fleet of 1,600 cabs generates about $150 million — all sent to the state.

Oh said he floated the idea to folks in Harrisburg and didn't find objections. "It's us producing new streams of revenue." And, he said, an entity has already committed to buying the 300 medallions.

The problem would most likely come locally. Cab owners and the cabbies, who have historically been at odds, would have to agree to the changes, which could be costly.

"We'd have to be on the same page," he said.

TOMMY ROWAN

By the numbers

$25M

Oh said the cabs could raise $25 million annually.

7

Currently, the city only has 7 handicap-accessible cabs.

Area students get free winter coats

Jawon Denmark, center, a fifth-grader from Ludlow Elementary, picks out a new coat as the Auto Dealers CARing for Kids Foundation donated 6,000 winter coats to the Philadelphia School District on Thursday, giving some of the coats away to area schoolchildren at an event a the Pennsylvania Convention Center. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Center City

Uniqlo opens Friday

The new Uniqlo store at 1608 Chestnut St. opens on Friday.

On Saturday, at Smith Memorial Playground, Questlove will spin from 4:15 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. during the Uniqlo Philly Love Fest from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

METRO

Harrisburg

Porn emails force DEP chair resignation

Christopher Abruzzo, the State Department of Environmental Protection secretary, resigned on Thursday after sources say he was one of the state officials who may have sent or received pornographic emails at work. METRO

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The Schuylkill River Boardwalk officially opens

People walk for the first time Thursday on the new Schuylkill River Trail boardwalk between Locust and South streets, a 2,000 foot extension of the path along the popular riverside path. Mayor Michael Nutter, inset, was on hand. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Logan

Pot plants found at murder scene

Police on Thursday morning found a 34-year-old man in a house on the 200 block of West Lindley Street in Logan dead on a couch with a gunshot wound to his head, according to NBC10.

While investigating the homicide, police uncovered a marijuana-growing operation in the basement. METRO

New Jersey

Sports betting bill advances

The bill that would green-light sports betting in New Jersey is making its way through the state legislature.

According to the Associated Press, the bill was sent out of committee and to the full Assembly.

The state Senate is expected to introduce a similar bill, the news service reported. METRO

LGBT. Pols hear words of gay attack victim at hate crime panel

The state House of Representatives' Democratic Policy Committee convened at the Kimmel Center Thursday for testimony about amending state hate crime laws to include sexual orientation.

This event was prompted by the brutal Sept. 11 beating of a gay couple in Rittenhouse. Three suspects, of Bucks County, have been charged with aggravated assault, but the victims, who are not identifying themselves publicly, say that is not enough.

"Three out of 15 people have had charges filed against them. None of those charges include the word 'hate,'" said a statement by one of the victims, which was read by their friend, Caryn Kunkle.

One of the victims in that attack attended incognito, as Kunkle read his statement, said Rep. Brian Sims, who organized the hearing.

"When you hear words like that, and I applauded, I looked right at him — I was applauding for him," Sims said after the hearing. "They deserve to know that this isn't getting put on the back burner ... I'm focusing on it every day."

SAM NEWHOUSE

A hate crime law?

Pennsylvania passed a hate crime law protecting sex crime orientation back in 2002.

- The Supreme Court struck down the law on technical grounds.
- A bill is currently pending in the house that would reinstate that protection.

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Up to 100 possibly exposed to US Ebola patient; four isolated

Symptoms. Ebola can cause fever, bleeding, vomiting, diarrhea and spreads through contact with bodily fluids.

Up to 100 people may have had contact with the first person diagnosed with Ebola in the United States, and four people were quarantined in a Dallas apartment where sheets and other items used by the man were put in sealed plastic bags to prevent infection.

Health officials said on Thursday that 12 to 18 people had direct contact with the patient, who flew to Texas from Liberia via Brussels and Washington two weeks ago, and they in turn had contact with scores of others.

None of those thought to have had contact with the patient, Thomas Eric Duncan, were showing symptoms of Ebola, Dallas County officials said at a news conference. Duncan had been staying in an apartment in the northeastern part of the city for about a week before going to a Dallas hospital.

"The sheets were placed in a sealed plastic bag and have been in the bag, as well as the belongings of Mr. Duncan, those were also in a bag," said Clay Jenkins, Dallas County's top political official.

In Liberia, the head of the country's airport authority, Binyah Kesselly, said the government could prosecute Duncan for denying he had contact with someone who was eventually diagnosed with Ebola.

The government said Duncan failed to declare that he helped neighbor Marthalene Williams after she fell critically ill on Sept. 15. Williams died.

Kesselly said Duncan was asked in a questionnaire whether he had come in contact with any Ebola victim or was showing any symptoms. "To all of these questions, Mr. Duncan answered 'no,'" Kesselly said.

Dallas County officials said the problem was very localized. "When I say local, I don't mean Dallas. I mean a very specific neighborhood in the northeast part of Dallas," Mayor Mike Rawlings told reporters. REUTERS

Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings and Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins at a press conference in Dallas. /GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"This really is something that shouldn't have happened," he said. "It just reinforces that taking a travel history has to be an essential part of taking care of patients."

Dr. Amesh A. Adalja, an infectious disease physician at the University of Pittsburgh

Quoted

3,338

Ebola has killed at least 3,338 people in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone, in the worst such outbreak since the disease was identified in 1976.

Outbreak

Air industry battles Ebola

Airlines and airports handling travel to countries worst hit by the Ebola epidemic are trying to prove that flying to West Africa is safe.

Some airlines have already suspended or cut back flights since the summer, and only one European carrier now offers direct services to Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia. However, those still operating have taken measures to protect passengers and crew, along with airports in the region and beyond. REUTERS

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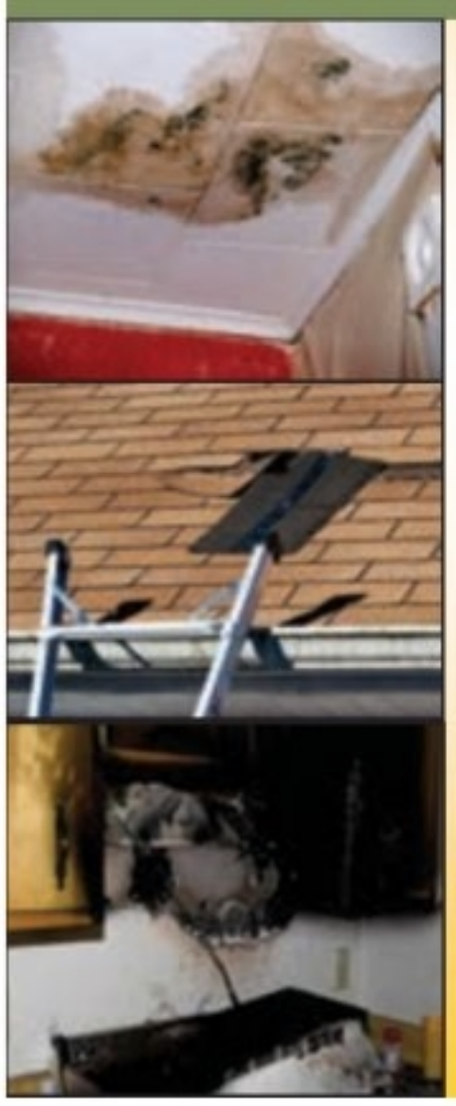

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UN report. ISIS fighters committing 'staggering' crimes in northern Iraq

Iraqi Yazidi women who fled the violence in the northern Iraqi town of Sinjar sit at a school where they are taking shelter in the Kurdish city of Dohuk in Iraq's autonomous Kurdistan region. / GETTY IMAGES

Islamic State insurgents in Iraq have carried out mass executions, abducted women and girls as sex slaves and used child soldiers in what may amount to systematic war crimes that demand prosecution, the United Nations said on Thursday.

A report based on 500 interviews with witnesses also said Iraqi government air strikes on the Sunni Muslim militants had caused "significant civilian deaths" by hitting villages, a school and hospitals in violation of international law.

At least 9,347 civilians had been killed and 17,386 wounded so far this year, well over half of them since the Islamist insurgents, also known as ISIL and ISIS, began seizing large parts of northern Iraq in early June, the report said.

REUTERS

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Climate. Scientists speed up analysis of human link to extreme weather

Waves crash over seaside homes in Scituate, Massachusetts, as Hurricane Sandy approached. / GETTY IMAGES

Climate scientists hope to be able to tell the world almost in real-time whether global warming has a hand in extreme weather thanks to an initiative they plan to launch by the end of 2015.

In recent years, scientists have become more adept at working out whether climate change caused by greenhouse gas emissions is exacerbating wild weather and its impacts around the world, but the task usually takes months.

"In the media, we are seeing this notion that you cannot attribute any individual events to climate change, but in fact the science has really evolved over the past decade," said Heidi Cullen, chief scientist with Climate Central.

The U.S.-based nonprofit science journalism organization is leading the initiative to speed up that analysis alongside the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, scientists at Oxford University, the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute and others.

For other events, like droughts, heavy rain and storms, pinning down the influence of human activity was more challenging, the researchers said. Human-caused climate change sometimes played a role, but its effect was often less clear, suggesting natural factors were far more dominant. REUTERS

Weather events

16

A review of 16 major weather events in 2013, released on Monday, found that human-caused climate change clearly increased the severity and likelihood of five heatwaves studied — including in Australia, Japan and China.

Media

It is important to be informed of changing risk

Maarten van Aalst, director of the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, said that 10 years ago the Red Cross would not have mentioned climate change in its statements to the media about weather-related disasters. But that is different today "because people recognize that the science is so much stronger".

"There's a bigger perception that it's important to know about changing risks — also in the context of recovery and reconstruction [after disasters]," van Aalst said.

The scientists involved in the new attribution initiative are developing a faster system using sophisticated climate models, combined with evidence from historical observations and previous research, that should enable them to say publicly within a couple of days of an extreme weather event happening whether it was made more likely by climate change. REUTERS

Graffiti art

UK council removes 'racist' Banksy mural

A local council has removed a mural by British artist Banksy following a complaint it was racist, a week before voters in the area decide whether to elect Britain's first lawmaker from a party opposing mass immigration.

The depiction on a wall in the seaside town of Clacton in southeast England showed a group of pigeons holding signs stating "Migrants not welcome" and "Go back to Africa" directed at a small green bird.

Tendring District Council said it received a complaint on Tuesday that the artwork was "racist" and "offensive" and removed it, unaware that it was thought to be by Banksy.

The image has appeared on Banksy's website. / BANKSY.CO.UK

Banksy is known for his ironic social commentary through graffiti and stenciled paintings in public spaces and private property around the world, Banksy emerged in Bristol, England, in the early 1990s. REUTERS

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GETTY IMAGES

Prince William warns paparazzi about his son

Britain's Prince William has warned two photographers against trailing his baby son George during walks in London parks with his nanny, saying their behavior amounted to "harassment." Lawyers acting for William, second-in-line to the throne, and his pregnant wife Kate, have written to freelance photographers asking them to stop following George, William's office said. REUTERS

Fighting crime

Dubai detectives plan to use Google Glass

Dubai police plan to issue detectives Google Glass hands-free eyewear to help them fight crime using facial recognition technology, a police spokesman said.

The wearable device is capable of taking photos, recording video and playing sound. REUTERS

Police in Hong Kong warn protesters against occupying buildings

Frustrated. Several protest leaders have threatened to occupy government buildings if Leung fails to resign.

Pro-democracy demonstrators protests in front of the Government Complex in Hong Kong. / GETTY IMAGES

Hong Kong police promised on Thursday to respond firmly to any attempt by thousands of pro-democracy protesters to occupy administrative buildings, and authorities urged people to immediately end their blockade of the city center.

The protesters had demanded Hong Kong's leader, Leung Chun-ying, step down by Thursday, and want China to introduce full democracy so the city can choose its own leader.

But the chief executive, appointed by Beijing, has refused to budge, leaving the two sides far apart in a dispute over how much political control China should have over Hong Kong.

Steve Hui, senior superintendent of the Hong Kong police force, said police would take action in accordance with the law if the protesters tried to enter government buildings.

"Whenever there are violent and major incidents and crimes such as fighting and any other situation that jeopardizes safety and public order, police will take resolute and firm action to restore public order," Hui said, when asked how police would respond should the students carry through with their threat. REUTERS

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Treatment hope. Scientists abuzz about potential in bees' stingers

The venom in insect stings and reptile bites was found to kill breast and skin cancer cells in lab testing. ALAN LAMB, FLICKR

A promising new lead in the search for a cancer cure has turned up in a place that most people naturally avoid.

A team from the University of Illinois has discovered that bee, snake and scorpion venom contains toxins that can kill cancerous tumors.

"We have safely used venom toxins in tiny nanometer-sized particles to treat breast cancer and melanoma cells in the laboratory," says research leader Dr. Dipanjan Pan.

The venom is encapsulated in tightly packed nanoparticles to avoid leakage and potentially harmful side effects such as damage to nerve cells or the heart muscle, blood clotting and bleeding beneath the skin.

The potential life-saving effects of these deadly toxins have been investigated before. Ancient civilizations explored their use in the treatment of arthritis and neurological disorders. But modern lab-synthesized versions of the venom's potent proteins and peptides ensure that there will be no issues with large-scale production.

The substance from bees, melittin, prevents cancer cells from multiplying. Pan explains that "venom from snakes and scorpions will work by inhibiting cancer stem cell-signaling pathways."

The team, who presented their findings at the National Meeting of the American Chemical Society in San Francisco, believes that it will take another three to five years until the first human trials can commence. **EDWARD THOMPSON, METRO WORLD NEWS**

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CULTURE

By the book

From page to screen

It would be cruel to spoil the twist that pops up halfway through "Gone Girl," but fortunately, many of the changes are in the first half. Most of Amy's diary entries and her early life with Nick have been condensed, as have some of Nick's more subtle psychological mistreatments of her as pressures mount.

Nick's narration is gone too, meaning we get less of an idea of his temper and his mild but noticeable misogyny — issues inherited from his now senile father, a sexist who likes to shout the B-word. In the film, his dad gets only one scene then disappears, and while he was never a prominent character, he still lends some darker insights into Nick's personality. That said, this is a largely faithful adaptation, and the second half of the film is appropriately totally nuts.

The 'Girl' you want

Interview. Rosamund Pike says "Gone Girl" speaks to an age when we can be whoever we want.

Ben Affleck and Rosamund Pike are seen in happier times early in the film version of "Gone Girl." / MERRICK MORTON

When Gillian Flynn's best-seller "Gone Girl" was to be made into a movie, casting its male lead — Nick Dunne, a man alternately hated and loved — was a no-brainer: Ben Affleck. Amy — Nick's missing, mysterious wife — was a little trickier. They wisely went with English actress Rosamund Pike, who skillfully delivers a diverse performance — much of which we can't talk about, for fear of spoilers. Luckily, there's still a lot that Pike can tell us about "Gone Girl."

Her experience with the novel

"I hadn't read it. I had my son just before it came out, so that gives you about six months underground without exposure to what's going on in the world."

ROSAMUND PIKE
GC IMAGES

Flynn's portrayal of courtship

"To me, it seems to be about how you can construct an honest relationship in an age where everyone's trying to perform to get a mate. There's [Flynn's] idea of women playing 'the cool girl' — a slightly altered version of themselves that suits the people they're trying to attract. That was shocking and new."

Amy's issues

"Amy is someone who has very high expectations ... engendered by her peculiar upbringing. Her parents have created this character, Amazing Amy, based on her. Everything falls in her lap, this fictional twin who succeeds whenever [real-world Amy] slips up. It's given Amy a very fragile sense of who she is and a sense of entitlement. She takes that with her into a relationship."

On Amy and Nick

"Nick Dunne is probably not the perfect match for her. He can be the perfect match. He is equally nonspecific, in a way. He's able to perform and be amazingly charming and compelling, but is equally a shlub who doesn't take his boxers off all day and plays video games. And that is not the guy Amy wants to be married to."

What it says about marriage

"There's a point in marriage where you can decide not to accept all parts of yourself, to only express some of yourself. Amy subscribes to that. You bury the parts of you that are lacking and you decide you should always be a high-wattage, dashing version of yourself — which is of course an unsustainable ideal."

What "Gone Girl" says about today

"[We're] in a climate where everyone is so aware of how they come across. People speak to each other on Skype — so they're not only having a telephone conversation, they're suddenly maybe not picking their teeth because someone can see them. Everyone is so much more self-aware than they were 50 years ago. You're always having to be aware of yourself from the outside, which is a recipe for narcissism. Even if you're not actually lying, even if there are photos of you, they're edited versions. You're choosing the best images, the best angles."

MATT PRIGGE
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Author, author!

Gillian Flynn on adapting her book to film

When writer Gillian Flynn sold the film rights of "Gone Girl," part of the deal was she would get first crack at the screenplay. As it happened, she wrote every draft, with some help from her director, David Fincher, who she knew would be able to handle the film's multiple tones.

Were there things you were sad to lose?
There were certain characters I lost along the way who I knew we just didn't have time for. [Amy's ex-boyfriend's] mom was a character I always liked. She's only in a few pages. She had to go. There were little cul-de-sacs of the book I knew weren't going to be able to make it. Having been a journalist for so many years taught me not to be overly attached to certain things. You have to learn how to hit the delete button.

How did your husband react to the book?
He definitely had a big gulp moment. He was like, "What do we need to talk about?" But he's known me for a long time. He's seen me write all kinds of other dark, creepy stuff. He said, "Write it, we'll sort the rest out later." I call him the muse of the book about toxic marriage.

Visit Metro.us to read more with Flynn.

GILLIAN FLYNN
GETTY IMAGES

Spooky spinoff. 'Annabelle' wants to be the Polanski film of the ghost movie trend

The real star of "The Conjuring" gets a prequel. Good for her! / WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Review

'Annabelle'

Director: John R. Leonetti

Stars: Annabelle Wallis, Ward Horton

Rating: R

The creepy doll from "The Conjuring" gets her own origin story, which shows her wreaking havoc upon a stay-at-home mom (Annabelle Wallis). Actually, the doll herself basically does nothing, because she is still just a ratty doll.

The lowdown: "Annabelle" is a quickie spin-off of a monster hit, but it only feels that way half the time. The budget is smaller, the effects weaker, the actors cheaper — but horror has never needed money to work, just filmmakers who know where to place the camera and how dimly to light the scene. Luckily, director John R. Leonetti photographed "The Conjuring," and he brings the same prowling, creeping camera work to bear on an even less credible spook tale, one involving not only ghosts but demons, plus suddenly closed doors, "Boo!" effects, loud noises and crayons writing on ceilings.

Not even paranormal nerds will buy this allegedly true tale, but the screenplay does try to pound it into a Roman Polanski study of isolation and madness. Wallis' SAHM is Catherine Deneuve in "Repulsion" crossed with Mia Farrow in "Rosemary's Baby": a haunted beauty whose anxieties manifest themselves in the form of ghosts and ghouls. (The doll itself is really a supporting player, despite scores and scores of intense zooms into her face.) The film itself keeps losing us and winning us back, over and over again, using style to distract us from the inanity of the story (like any self-respecting horror film) then killing the vibe by going much too far. By its incoherent climax it's clear which side it's chosen, but oftentimes this frustrating ghost tale is not only scary but moving. **MATT PRIGGE**

Review

'Tracks'

Director: John Curran
Stars: Mia Wasikowska, Adam Driver
Rating: R

The true story of one of the longer one-person hikes — in which Robyn Davidson traversed some 1,700 miles across Australia's deserts — gets told, with Mia Wasikowska as the eternally private walker who's joined only by some camels and a cute dog.

The lowdown: Like its hero's tale, "Tracks" is a stripped-down affair, usually consisting of no more than Wasikowska walking with animals, photographed as beautifully as possible. In fact, it's so lovely when that's all it is that any time it adds something — Wasikowska's voiceover, any attempt at psychology, a semi-romantic subplot with a photojournalist played by Adam Driver — it only stresses how lean this story is. It doesn't help that all of those are weak: The narration is bland and the psychology is banal. At least Driver is always welcome — a good thing, given how ubiquitous he's become. The good news is there's not enough meat on this yarn to turn it into a standard triumph-of-the-human-spirit deal, and at least it ends on a muted note. Still, the ideal version of this would have been a hypnotic mood piece — just walking and pretty pictures, with the occasional dab into phantasmagoria as exhaustion and sunstroke set in. **MATT PRIGGE**

One of Mia Wasikowska's only co-stars in "Tracks" is Adam Driver. / THE WEINSTEIN COMPANY

Lit adaptation. The 'Gone Girl' movie fumbles in the first half, totally murders in the second

'Gone Girl'

Ben Affleck attempts to find his MIA wife (Rosamund Pike) in "Gone Girl." / MERRICK MORTON

Gillian Flynn's best-seller becomes a largely faithful movie, which follows an ex-journo (Ben Affleck) suspected of maybe having something to do with his wife (Rosamund Pike) going missing. Halfway through there's a pretty significant twist (which we won't reveal).

The lowdown: Flynn's novel isn't really a whodunit. It's a skeptical, even cynical look at relationships in the guise of an airport novel — a page-turner where the real meat lies in between the many hairpin turns. The movie version is more of a thriller. It does the inverse of the source: Where the book was better in its first half and more of a trashy twist-a-thon in its second, the film, directed by David Fincher and adapted by Flynn, actually gets better once it gets trashy.

What Fincher brings to "Gone Girl," beyond his usual technical precision and sculpting of performances, is his under-valued sense of humor. Though losing most of the first-person narration means ditching some of the better jokes, the film remains funny in the right spots, including in the off-beat casting of Tyler Perry and Neil Patrick Harris in heavy roles.

Fincher's presence also ensures it will neither eliminate nor hold back on the book's crazier parts. He doesn't seem particularly interested in the relationship angle, so prevalent in the book, but he clearly loves the idea of deception and self-deception — the way people tell stories to convince others, and themselves, of what's true. But he's also fully committed to turning this into a highly polished, meticulously crafted pile of junk cinema. But it doesn't get dumb: In fact, Fincher and Flynn carry over the complexity of the novel, where characters are various shades of gray and truth is always mutable. **MATT PRIGGE**

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Kids toon. 'The Hero of Color City' will one day be a great way to punish misbehaving children

Christina Ricci leads an all-star vocal cast in this children's film about a kid whose crayons come to life while he sleeps. After heading to their alternate realm, they have to contend with someone draining their land of color.

The animation in "The Hero of Color City" looks like computer game cutscenes from the '90s. / MAGNOLIA PICTURES

Review

'The Hero of Color City'

Director: Frank Gladstone

Voices of: Christina Ricci, Owen Wilson

Rating: G

The lowdown: Parents have long been spoiled by family animation films that don't forget about grown-ups — mercifully tossing in pop culture jokes and stealth profundity so that adults don't have to suffer. The greatness of Pixar and Aardman and Studio Ghibli is never more apparent than when watching Magnolia Pictures' "The Hero of Color City," which is aimed only at kids — and worse, it assumes kids will watch anything.

Getting about as cynical as Hanna-Barbera products, this talking crayon movie is "Toy Story" meets "The Wizard of Oz" — or rather "Legends of Oz," the cut-rate, randomly cast, deservedly failed attempt to cash in on a franchise. The animation is ugly and the (thankfully infrequent) songs are forgettable ditties on topics like how fun it is to ride a bike or how fun it is to be on a boat. The lessons are so basic that they make one long for the complexity of a "Davy and Goliath" episode. Ricci voices Yellow, who of course is scared of everything. (There's also Brown, an old-timey cowboy, plus a scientist who is a borderline libelous rip-off of Professor Frink of "The Simpsons.") This surreal adventure is making a pit stop in theaters before becoming a punishment for misbehaving children.

MATT PRIGGE

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Holy crap. With 'Left Behind,' Nicolas Cage has finally found the worst film of his career

What was once a low-budget series about the Rapture starring a faded TV kid star (Kirk Cameron) is now a low-budget series starring a faded Oscar-winner. Nicolas Cage plays a sinful pilot who discovers half of his passengers have suddenly evaporated.

"Left Behind" star Nicolas Cage won an Oscar in 1996 for "Leaving Las Vegas." / STONEY LAKE ENT

The lowdown: At its heart, buried under pounds of piety and bad dialogue, the first of Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins' 16 novels is a blended-genre piece: a plane thriller cross-cut with an apocalyptic horror show, with Cage trying to calm his freaked passengers and land safely while society collapses below. But even for a Bible Belt product — and especially for a wide release boasting a major star — this "Left Behind" is distractingly cheap and incompetent. A handful of professional actors are surrounded by unpolished supporting players, plus some of the worst extras you've ever seen. It's the kind of film that makes you appreciate the relative polish of, say, "Blended," and one where rent-a-hunk Chad Michael Murray, by sheer dint of knowing how to perform for a camera, looks like Steve McQueen compared to his cast mates.

Meanwhile, Cage — who, it's important to note, was terrific in "Joe" earlier this year — enters the picture doing the worst double-take of his career, then clearly hits on the actress (Cassi Thomson) playing his daughter. But he quickly retreats into bored Cage drone mode, mumbling about burning fuel tanks and busted landing gear, trying to inoculate himself against having finally found the worst film on his CV. Of course, this is stealth religious propaganda — a would-be blockbuster trying to play to believers and skeptics alike. But if it can't stage a conversation right, let alone a place crash (with the least credible one since "Air Force One"), how are we supposed to trust it on the meaning of life? **MATT PRIGGE**

Review

'Left Behind'

Director: Vic Armstrong

Stars: Nicolas Cage, Cassi Thomson

Rating: PG-13

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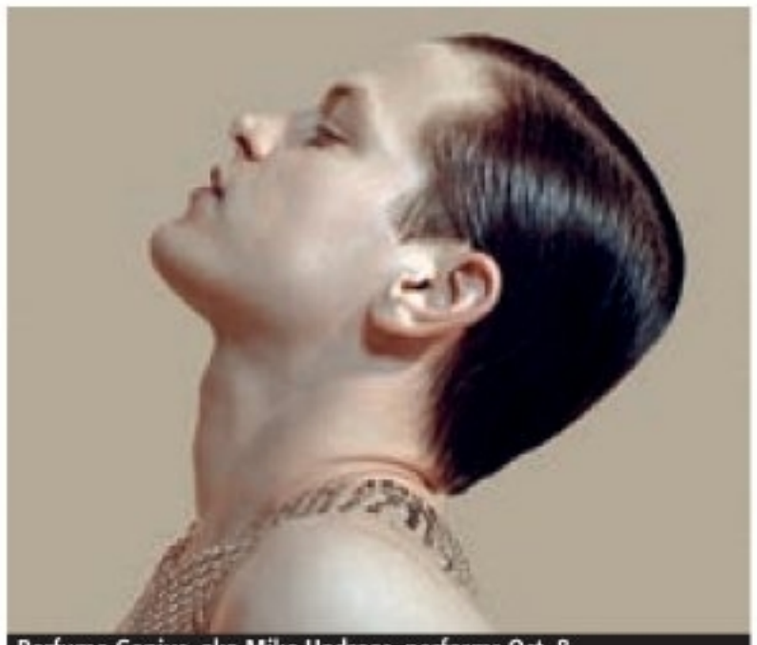
Perfume Genius arrives

Know your queen.
Mike Hadreas was bullied before, but now he's "Too Bright" to let it happen to other kids. So he's giving them an anthem.



Perfume Genius, aka Mike Hadreas, performs Oct. 8 at Johnny Brenda's (1201 N. Frankford Ave.). Visit www.ticketfly.com for more information. / LUKE GILFORD

Not too far into "Too Bright," the latest album by Seattle-based artist Perfume Genius — aka Mike Hadreas — the singer poses a rhetorical question: "Don't you know your queen?" he spits, with a defiant immediacy not unlike that of, say, a merciless Marie Antoinette. It's crucial to understanding the inner workings of the man behind Perfume Genius.

"Throughout my life, I sort of hoped for and waited for reassurance that I'm all right the way that I am and that there's nothing wrong with me, and that didn't always go very well," Hadreas says. "A lot of times I got the opposite for feedback, and the song is me just missing all that and stopping that sort of voice in my head that believes what everybody's saying and just demanding respect."

Hadreas explains that he was bullied "fairly hard" while growing up, an experience that not only mangled his self-esteem but convinced him that his vilifiers were right. As a result, he says, he adopted and maintained a victim's outlook on the world until long after high school.

"You know, I wish I would've heard that song when I was 13," he says. "Here's something I could've really fully related to in that specific way, and I could've puffed my chest up a little earlier."

'Horse shavings'

Off-putting and cute

The conversation gets off to a fuzzy start. When Hadreas answers the phone, we ask where he is. He says he's at the Washington State Fair. He isn't performing there, as we had originally thought (hoped). He's visiting.

"Right now I'm sitting next to a sign that says 'Horse Shavings.' Just the quietest spot I could find," he says.

Toward the end of the interview, he says he has more to explore.

"There are some like really long-haired luxurious guinea pigs. And all their wayward fur," he muses, "I find that kind of off-putting, but they're cute."

KASIA PILAT
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Community

Touch the heart

Putty Dance is actively seeking out opportunities to create after-school programs using both dance and jazz.

"The main message we want to pose is that we need to be conscious as artists and we need to make our audience conscious," Brent White says. "In the future, we'll always try to design our productions based on those issues that touch the heart, like our concern for kids and technology. Our projects will always have a social component."

Crowdfunding

Lauren Putty-White and Brent White's "Going, Wanting in the Age of the Selfie" premieres Friday and runs through Sunday at the Community Education Center (3500 Lancaster Ave.). / BILLHPHOTO

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a selfie

Digital age. Putty Dance Project's husband-and-wife team takes on technology.

Musicians' significant others are often obligated to show their support at gigs, reluctantly or otherwise. Dancer-choreographer Lauren Putty-White was not only eager to see her husband, trombonist Brent White, perform, but she's used that time well. Over the past decade, he's been involved in some of the city's most creative jazz ensembles, including Bobby Zankel's Warriors of the Wonderful Sound, Orrin Evans' Captain Black Big Band and the Fresh Cut Orchestra.

"Over six years of going to gigs with Brent, I've witnessed how genius it is live when jazz musicians try to follow their stream of consciousness when they're playing," Putty-White says. "You can tell that it's coming from them in the moment and is so spontaneous, but at the same time it somehow ends up making sense. I think that's brilliant and that it's possible to do that with movement as well."

That inspiration led to Putty Dance Project, the couple's newly formed independent dance theater arts company. This weekend brings their first full-length production, "Going, Wanting in the Age of the Selfie." The piece takes a multimedia look at the pros and cons of the digital age — one of the pros apparently being crowdfunding, as the project was funded via a $5,000 Kickstarter campaign last month.

"We were thinking of ways to create some type of dialogue within the community, something that wasn't just art for art's sake," Putty-White says. "We wanted to create something that had meaning, that was relevant and that people could relate to, so we came up with one of the most obvious topics of conversation, which is today's society and technology."

SHAUN BRADY
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TV watch list

Looks like "Madam Secretary" is trying out the old Aaron Sorkin walk-and-talk. / PATRICK HARBRON, CBS

COMEDY

'Saturday Night Live'

Sarah Silverman stops by her former employer (a very brief former employer) for hosting duties. At least we probably don't have another one of those musical monologues to sit through. **SATURDAY, 11:30 P.M., NBC**

COMEDY

'The Simpsons'

Following their brief visit with the Griffin family on "Family Guy" last week, the Simpsons are back to their usual tricks: Homer and Bart have to learn to work out their problems together on a special cruise called the Relation Ship. **SUNDAY, 8 P.M., FOX**

DRAMA

'Madam Secretary'

Elizabeth finds herself sparring with a reporter who threatens to release state secrets unless she cooperates. We at Metro, speaking in a totally unbiased way, find the portrayal of journalists in pop culture to be occasionally unfair. **SUNDAY, 8:30 P.M., CBS**

LISA WEIDENFELD

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Real-world love advice

CHARLES J. ORLANDO

TheProblemIsMen.com

Charles J. Orlando is a relationship expert and author of the best-selling book series "The Problem with Women ... Is Men." Find out more about him on his website, or visit him on Facebook for real-world love advice.

Getting back together: Yes, it can work

Relationships are always easy — in the beginning. Both people are on their best behavior. But sometimes, despite the initial euphoria and all those promises made, things don't go the way they were planned. And then it's over as quickly as it started. But the feelings that were shared don't dissipate at the same speed. Eventually you may ask yourself: "Do I get back together with my ex?" Once you're at that point, the process begins.

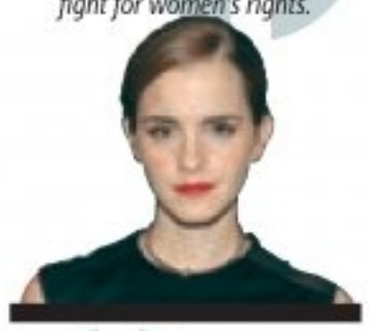
Stage 1: You question if it's worth trying again

When it comes to past relationships, you can't go back. Going back means only one thing: repeating past situations and mistakes. When you revisit an old flame, it still has to be new. Otherwise, you risk repeating behaviors and actions that broke you up in the first place.

Stage 2: You worry it might end all over again

How do you know if it will work this time? You don't. Like any relationship, it has its own chance for success or failure. However, you already have the knowledge of what doesn't work with him, so you're ahead of the game.

Emma Watson gave a powerful speech on gender equality at the U.N., championing HeForShe, a campaign to enlist men to fight for women's rights.



But true to form, naysayers on both sides of the gender divide were fast to nitpick her words — including the New York Post. Some reporters used her words to take a contrarian view to get hits.

Stage 3: You wonder if you really belong together

There are no guarantees in life and love, but unless you are getting back together for love and companionship, you are doing it for the wrong reasons. There are some telltale signs that things may not work this time around, including a fear of failure and signs of repeating past behavior — from either party.

For exclusive commentary, visit **Metro.us/blogs.**

Stage 4: You work hard to fix what broke

For any relationship to be great, you need a combination of things: honesty, empathy, compassion, loyalty and more. But if you are starting over with a past love, you'll need all that plus open, honest communication, a willingness to be wrong and the freedom to surrender control.

More pieces of advice

1

Reality check: If they are really into you, they will find a way. If they are just playing with your heart, they will find an excuse to ditch you.

2

Ever wonder what happens when a married man goes undercover to find out why women cheat? Well, I did it: ***www.dailydot.com/opinion/ashley-madison-why-women-cheat.***

3

If you are avoiding your partner's calls, you are on your way out of the relationship. Here's the otherTop 5 signs: ***www.theproblemismen.com/checkedout.***

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THE WORD

Ned Ehrbar takes on the world of gossip.

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Theron at the gym: Steer clear

Oh my, Charlize Theron should just stick to using a personal trainer. After making headlines this summer for diva behavior at a SoulCycle spin class, including being rude to Tia Mowry, the Oscar-winner has reportedly moved to a new workout location — but her attitude hasn't changed. "She always arrives late to class with a scowl on her face and has the nerve to ask people who are already settled on their bikes to switch," a spin classmate at West Hollywood's Crunch gym tells In Touch of Theron. "She always causes a scene. People know to steer clear of her." Again, why is someone of Theron's stature and fame even taking classes like this if they cause her such clear displeasure? Isn't the whole point of being rich and famous that you don't have to mix with the normals? But, in Ms. Theron's defense, I'd challenge this anonymous source on the scowling. Of course she's scowling. It's a spin class. You're telling me you're excited to be there?

Amanda Bynes makes it hard not to write about her

New details are emerging about the ignoble end of Amanda Bynes' tenure at L.A.'s Fashion Institute of Design and Marketing. A fellow student tells TMZ that Bynes showed signs of trouble for a while, including ditching classes, being clearly high when she did bother to show up and paying other students to do her homework. The website now reports that Bynes not so much flunked out of the school as was kicked out after a recent incident where she was caught cheating on a test. It was the last straw.

Kutcher and Kunis welcome a baby girl, finally!

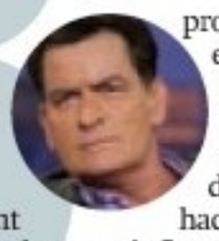
After what felt like a 20-month pregnancy, Mila Kunis and fiance Ashton Kutcher welcomed their first child, a girl, earlier this week, according to People magazine. "She's here and healthy," a source says.

'Angry Birds,' the movie? Really?

Is "Angry Birds" still a thing? Hollywood hopes so, as the film version of the mobile game is rolling forward. Jason Sudeikis, Bill Hader, Maya Rudolph (all pictured above from an "SNL" sketch) and Peter Dinklage have signed on to voice characters, according to the Hollywood Reporter. At least it's more timely than a Tetris movie, which was just announced.

Speaking of erratic behavior, Sheen goes 'tiger blood' on dentist

Charlie Sheen is reportedly being investigated for claims of assault with a deadly weapon after a dental appointment went awry, according to Radar Online. Sheen brought his own dentist with him for a procedure and supposedly pulled a knife on him. Sheen's bodyguard reportedly informed the dentist that the actor had been under the influence of cocaine at the time of the incident. You know, the usual.



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Letters

See something? Do something!

Re: 'Publishing letters denying climate change irresponsible' (Metro, Oct. 1) I think very much that Metro would print letters about the world being flat! If we have any of those rolling into Metro's inbox, I would love to see them. I'm sure they'd be just as hilarious as the ones about ice ages being natural. It is worth mentioning that global heating and cooling is natural in the way that a snake biting a human is natural; if you see it coming, you should probably do something to stop it. **ANTHONY P. FARRELL, VIA EMAIL**

'Science' changes as much as climate

Re: 'Publishing letters denying climate change irresponsible' (Metro, Oct. 1) I think letter writer Craig Altemose has demonstrated why he believes there is unanimous agreement on climate change; it's because they silence any opposition or evidence which may contradict them. Even their own markers contradict themselves, which is why they constantly "evolve" on this "settled science" as to what constitutes climate change: "OMG, it's hot in summer!" "OMG it's cold in winter!" "Seas will boil!" "Low income and Ebola are signs of climate change!"
SEAN ROOK, VIA EMAIL

Thursday's answer

NOT SUCH A 'SECRET' SERVICE ANYMORE

Opinion

TOM FOREMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT FOR CNN

As my friends will tell you, I have my faults. I sing less well than I imagine. I can't remember birthdays. And a loss by a favorite sports team can bring on such despair that I make Frances Farmer look like Howie Mandel.

But give me credit: I've never once allowed a stranger to jump the fence, sprint across the lawn and dash into the White House. Preventing such rash action is not my responsibility, but this week it didn't seem to be anyone else's job, either. Accordingly, Secret Service officials got the pinata treatment from Congress after a man made just such an entrance.

In an instant classic of understatement, Secret Service boss, Julia Pierson, said: "It's clear that our security plan was not properly executed." She may as well have blamed Bo, the family dog. In short order, her resignation was on the table.

Still, Pierson was on the job for only 18 months, and problems for the Secret Service have been growing for years. Reports of drinking and hookers on foreign trips, demoralized agents, security breaches and let's not forget that reality TV couple that crashed a White House party. Hey, if you can't keep a Journey groupie out, what chance do you have against a real threat? Just saying.

It's all tragic, because the Secret Service has an honorable history, and the agents face a genuinely tough task keeping our president safe in a sea of 300 million people. Sure, they could swing by Home Depot and get a deadbolt for the front door, install a new porch light and build a moat filled with crocodiles or bitter Republicans — but that would do nothing to protect the chief executive on the move. Anyway, Americans don't like the idea of our presidents living in a fortress, even if they do.

All of which is to say: Fixing the Secret Service will be a huge challenge no matter who is at the helm. And it won't be any easier if "secrets" like these recent ones keep leaking out.

CNN=POLITICS

Sudoku: Easy and hard

			7	9	1		3	
					8		7	
7						2	6	1
4			9			6		3
		8		7		4		
9		2			3			7
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	4						6	
2					6		7	8
		4		6		8		
	8		9	4		5		7
					5	3		

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Horoscope

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. Don't let anyone put you down. Deal with a hurtful comment if it is causing you anguish. Make it clear that you don't appreciate being treated poorly.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Hesitation and self-doubt will deter you from making the gains that will help you feel good about who you are.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. Show more determination; you have the strength to go the distance, so hit the ground running. Close a deal or finish a project that you've left lingering. Don't fold under pressure.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20. You will be able to coax others into joining your cause. If you are vigilant, you will be able to take advantage of a chance. Keep your emotions in check.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18. Strive to be the best you can be. Keep your options open in order to take advantage of promising choices that will allow you to use your skills diversely.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. Read between the lines. False or conflicting information is apparent. Ask questions to satisfy your curiosity and avoid ending up in a compromising or awkward position.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. Reach outside the family circle if you need help. Emotions are bound to get in the way if relatives try to give you advice. Look for an unbiased counselor.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. Difficulties may arise at work if you are drawn into a battle of wills with a colleague. Take the high road and stick to the facts. An emotional reaction will leave a bad impression.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. It would be a good idea to revisit places that have special meaning for you. Conjure up pleasant memories in order to gain some thought-provoking insight into where you are.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. Trade shows or conventions will offer valuable information about starting your own business. Put yourself in the loop so that you can keep abreast of opportunities to highlight your skills.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. Make the most of what you have. Whiling away the time hoping Lady Luck will fall in your lap is not the answer.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. Be tolerant of other people's opinions. There is no need to get upset if things aren't done your way. Trying to control everything will work against you. **EUGENIA LAST**

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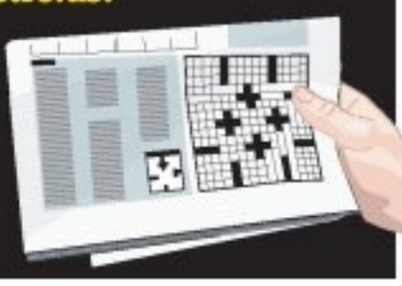

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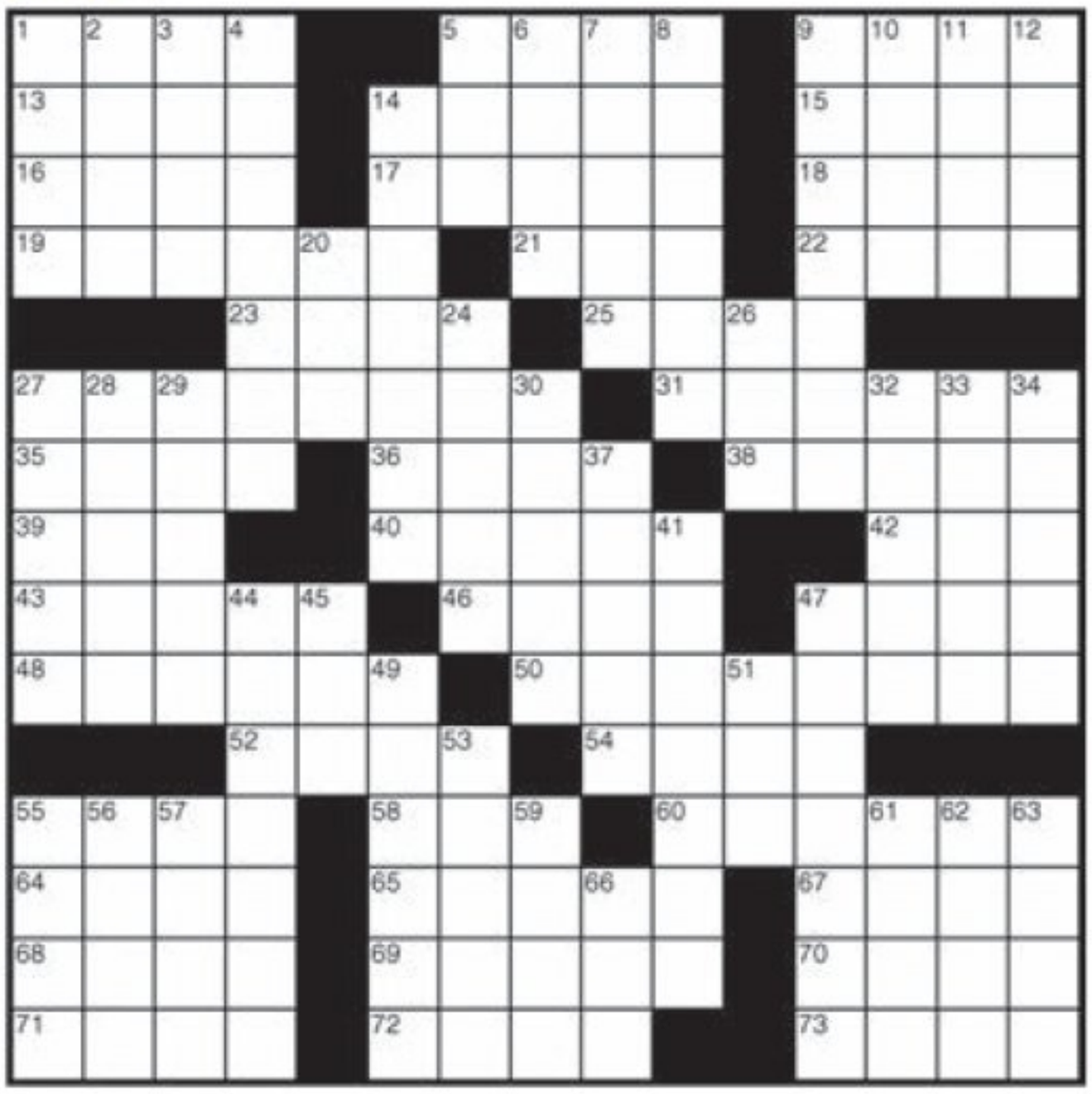

Across

1 Mock the umpire
5 Bored response
9 Silent-screen temptress
13 She, in Seville
14 Prove false
15 Mrs. David Bowie
16 Use a blowtorch
17 Duelers' blades
18 Vigor
19 Lathered
21 Winding curve
22 Memorable tennis champ
23 Gets billed
25 Stadium level
27 Mirrors
31 Thrilled beyond words
35 Sculptor — Nadelman
36 Keystone konstables
38 Sci-fi or romance
39 Freight unit
40 Organizes
42 Touch of frost
43 In reserve
46 Cafe au —
47 Volkswagen kin
48 "Whew!" feeling
50 Shook
52 Is or was
54 Pole on a ship
55 Think positive
58 Loophole
60 Warmed up
64 Not mention
65 Auto option
67 Floor model
68 Walk-on, maybe
69 Atahualpa subject
70 Sevareid of the news
71 Marketed
72 Type of salmon
73 Kind of chocolate

Down

1 Chops down
2 Dairy-case buy
3 Earthen pot
4 Young frog
5 Uh-huh
6 Helm position
7 Actress Dianne—
8 Scottish "monster"
9 Really weird
10 Iowa town
11 Too quick to act
12 Poker stake
14 Adorns
20 Dolly the clone
24 Piano seat
26 MIT grad
27 Pave over
28 Split to join
29 Conclusive
30 Dieter of rhyme
32 Cancel
33 Bwana's sighting
34 Body temperature
37 Moves a little
41 Physicist — Hawking
44 Fixed, as attention
45 Jeans go-with
47 Chafed
49 Romp
51 Daisy — Yokum
53 Good in Granada
55 — d'oeuvre
56 Melville opus
57 Capsule
59 Rpm measurer
61 Prefix for "trillion"
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3 SPORTS

Linebacker down

Kendricks likely out

The Eagles were hopeful that Mychal Kendricks would be back on the field Sunday against the Rams, but the young linebacker hasn't practiced with the team all week, making it fairly obvious he won't be playing in Week 5. "He's moving a little bit better," Chip Kelly told the media Thursday. "We'll see how he is, but he hasn't gotten to a point where we are putting him back in drills yet." Emmanuel Acho and Casey Matthews will team up to fill in for Kendricks.

3 Stories to watch as Eagles meet Rams

NFL. The Eagles took their first loss last week and look to bounce back against the NFC West's worst.

It's Week 5 and the Eagles are no longer undefeated. The Birds have overcome all sorts of adversity in their first four games, battling through injuries and double-digit deficits to obtain a 3-1 record.

Their next test is upon them, and the entire NFL is watching to see if the Eagles offense can bounce back after last week's terrible offensive output in a tight loss to the 49ers. The Rams are 1-2 and are expected to finish at the bottom of the NFC West.

Prior to the start of the season, many fans and pundits had Sunday's game at Lincoln Financial Field (1 p.m., Fox) as a sure victory for the Eagles. But now, a week removed from watching the team struggle offensively nothing seems sure anymore.

EVAN MACY
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evan.macy@metro.us

1 Hit the ground running

The Eagles can't win with a one-dimensional attack. They need to revitalize last year's top running offense. And tackle Lane Johnson's return could help the offensive line open a few holes for LeSean McCoy and Darren Sproles.

"We're not blocking very well at wide receiver, at offensive line, at tight end, anywhere," Eagles head coach Chip Kelly said, spreading the blame around. "You look at our production in the run game and it's not where it should be. So there's not one specific area. I think everybody from a blocking standpoint needs to improve."

Other teams have been successful against the Rams on the ground. In fact, St. Louis faced just 69 pass attempts in its first three games, the lowest in the NFL by a large margin.

The Rams are No. 30 in the NFL with regards to rushing defense.

MCCOY IS AVERAGING 2.7 YARDS PER CARRY.
ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

2 Protection against Rams lackluster rush

The Rams have just one sack this season. That's right, just one. And this comes a year after Robert Quinn had 19 for St. Louis in a breakout year. With Nick Foles sometimes forced to rush his throws during the first four weeks, solid offensive line play along with a lackluster Rams pass rush could open up the passing game for the Birds. Quinn might be less effective because he is without fellow pass-rusher Chris Long, and will be facing up against left tackle Jason Peters.

"The one thing that strikes you when you watch him is just how hard he runs to the ball no matter where the play is," Kelly said of Quinn. "I think a lot of people have gone away from him. They had such a great tandem when Chris Long was on one side and he was on the other side."

Nick Foles / GETTY IMAGES

SPROLES HAS BEEN DEADLY IN OPEN SPACE.

More very special teams

The Eagles have an incredible special teams resume so far this season. And at points it's been a difference maker. The Birds nearly turned two special teams scores and a defensive touchdown into a win last week in San Francisco. And they used a Chris Polk kickoff return touchdown to help them beat the Redskins. It seems everywhere you look, the special teams unit is the one reliable phase executing for the Eagles each week.

"It's another year in the system for those guys," Kelly said. "We've added some special teams players through free agency. Guys like Chris Maragos [and] ... Trey Burton, who wasn't here last year."

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SCHEDULE FOR SUCCESS THIS TIME OF YEAR

In Week 3, Frank Gore totaled 10 yards against the Cardinals' rugged run defense. In Week 4, he torched the Eagles for 174 total yards and a touchdown. Coincidence? Of course not. Matchups are at the heart of our weekly decisions, the organ that pumps the blood into our team. So if your squad is scuffling around at 2-2, 1-3 or (god forbid) 0-4, you need wins now. Some upcoming scheduling notes to be aware of:

Rueben Randle has just one touchdown catch this season, but big things may be coming. / GETTY IMAGES

Giant chance

I'm not ready to buy into an all-out Eli Manning resurgence yet. But he has put together three strong games in a row, and it's not going to get any tougher. Atlanta's defense is what we all thought Dallas' would be before the season, an absolute sieve. Then the Giants have the pleasure of seeing the Eagles, Cowboys and Colts in their next three games. Rueben Randle, on the verge of a breakout, needs to be owned across the board. Rashad Jennings profiles as a better bet than someone like Eddie Lacy.

Brown out

Ben Tate (knee) is getting healthy just in time. Over the next five games, he gets to face a dream quintet of run defenses: Titans, Steelers, Jaguars, Raiders, Bucs. Projected to start and get at least 65 percent of the running back touches for the Browns, all Tate has to do is stay healthy to return to borderline RB1 numbers during this stretch. It's also a nice time to buy low on Jordan Cameron and add Andrew Hawkins as well as the Browns D/ST.

Ram tough

If any of your Rams have a big game against the Eagles in Philly Sunday, it's time to sell. In Weeks 6 to 12, St. Louis faces Seattle, Arizona, Denver, San Diego, Kansas City and San Francisco twice. It will be especially tough for Zac Stacy, as these teams have strong run defenses.

FANTASY SPORTS
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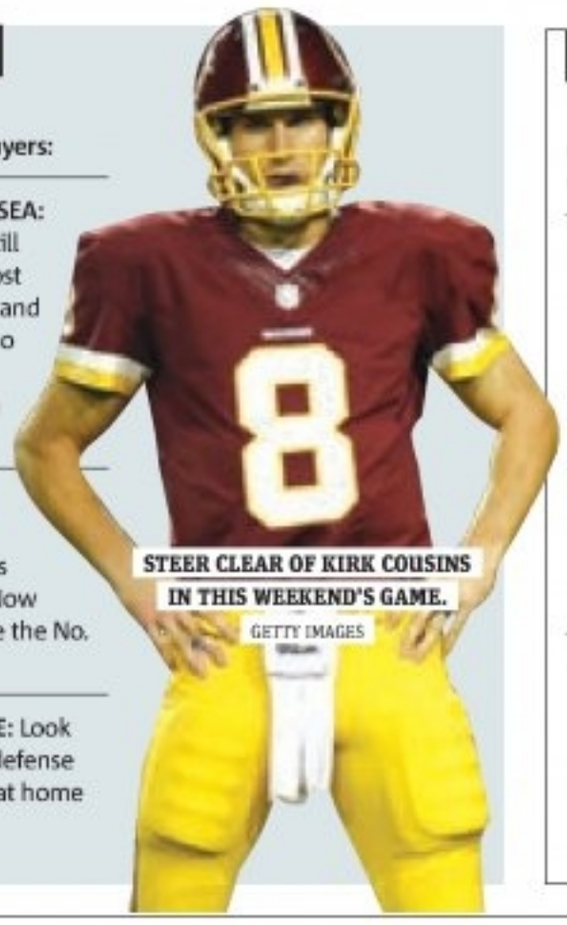
NFL matchups

Don't start these players:

- **Kirk Cousins vs. SEA:** Captain Kirk is still a good bet to post top-14 numbers and hold a job, but no one looks good after a date with Seattle.
- **Donald Brown vs. NYJ:** The Chargers line has been exposed. Now they have to face the No. 1 run defense.
- **Jeremy Hill at NE:** Look for the Patriots defense to bounce back at home Sunday night.

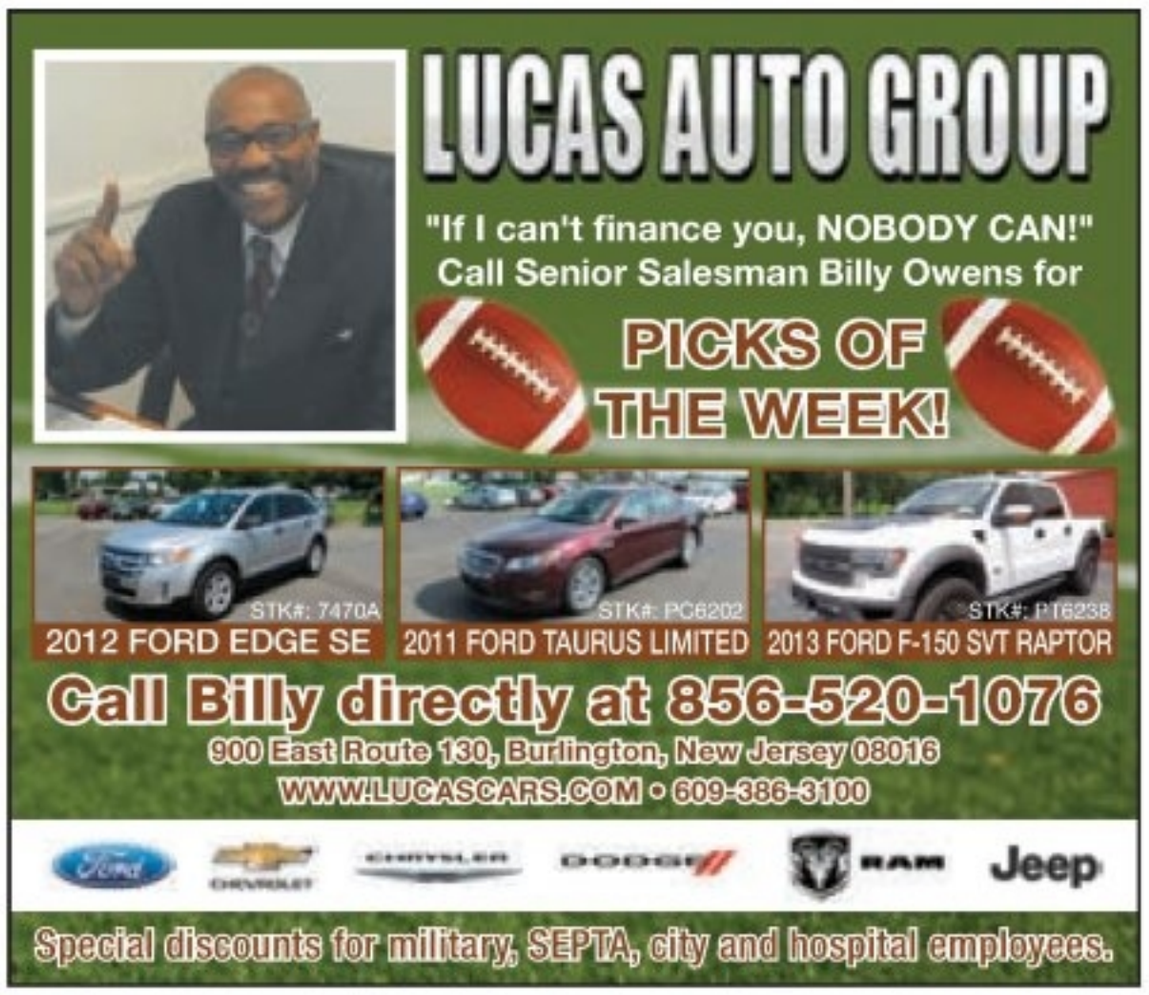


STEER CLEAR OF KIRK COUSINS IN THIS WEEKEND'S GAME. GETTY IMAGES

Pickups of the week

Grab these guys off the waiver wire while you can:

- **Andre Holmes, WR, Raiders:** Now firmly ahead of benched Denarius Moore, Holmes is going to soak up garbage-time goodies.
- **Austin Seferian-Jenkins, TE, Bucs:** With Mike Evans out two to four weeks, ASJ is looking at eight targets per game.
- **Blake Bortles, QB, Jaguars:** Offensive coordinator Jedd Fisch is drawing up designed runs for the impressive rookie.



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The Wildcats potent offense is stemmed from a solid and cohesive offensive line. / VILLANOVA ATHLETIC MEDIA RELATIONS

Villanova football dominates thanks to offensive line

NCAA. The Wildcats win the old-fashioned way, as their big men win battles in the trenches.

Looking forward

The meat of the conference schedule is about to begin for area college football programs.

- Penn opens the Ivy League looking for its first win against Dartmouth Saturday afternoon at 1:30.
- Villanova travels to Maine seeking to stretch its winning streak to four straight games.
- The Temple Owls head into a bye week atop the AAC standings with their homecoming match against Tulsa next week.

Quoted

"It's tricky to put different people in different places, but I think now all the pieces are in place."
Ross Hall, Villanova center

After a quarterback has a big day throwing the ball or the running back goes over 100 yards with a couple of touchdowns, it's not unusual for him to say "The line did a great job for me today."

While it sounds sincere, it's kind of like an Oscar winner thanking his publicist or the guy behind the camera. Nobody's really paying attention.

But for those who did pay attention to Villanova's 41-7 blowout of Penn last Saturday at venerable Franklin Field (foiling Penn coach Al Bagnoli's final chance to beat his good buddy, Andy Talley) the Wildcats' offensive line was remarkable.

While most will point to Villanova quarterback John Robertson's 982 yards and 11 touchdowns with no interceptions this season as the catalyst for its success this season, in last week's victory the 'Cats amassed 265 yards in the first quarter alone and had 417 yards by the half.

"We were clicking," senior right tackle Vince Kowalski said.

In reality, the 3-1 Wildcats have been virtually unstoppable since Day 1. Since losing in double overtime at Syracuse after missing a chip-shot field goal at the end of regulation, they've outscored opponents 140-44. Going into the season Talley knew he had weapons at the skill positions. He just didn't know what to expect from an offensive line replacing three starters.

"Mark Ferrante, who's been with me 28 years, had a bit of a down year last year with our O-line," Talley said. "He came in foaming at the mouth this year determined to get our guys ready. We thought we had enough weapons this year to be a really good team. If we could just solve that problem it would go a long way toward developing the offense. And it has."

Since incorporating junior Kyle Wallace and redshirt sophomores Brad Seaton and Jake Prus alongside holdovers Kowalski and center Ross Hall, the Wildcats have roared.

"Vince and I took it upon ourselves to bring these young guys up," said Hall, like Kowalski, a preseason CAA first-team pick. "Get them to mesh with us right away. I think the first four games we've done that real well."

The new guys appreciate it.

"They've made it so much easier for me," said Seaton, a big boy at 6-foot-8 and 305 pounds. "They communicate well and have done a great job bringing us along."

JON MARKS
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Tony Wroten could break out in 2014-15. / GETTY IMAGES

76ers likely to tag Wroten to start at SG

NBA. Sixers guard Tony Wroten hopes he is part of the start of something special in Philly.

Tony Wroten was one of the pleasant surprises in an otherwise tumultuous 2013-14 campaign for the Sixers. Wroten averaged 13 points, 3.2 rebounds and three assists in 24.5 minutes a game and was relied upon heavily for offensive production off the bench.

He's playing the role of Michael Carter-Williams' fill-in at point guard during training camp and preseason, as he recovers from right shoulder surgery.

"It's not a good thing that Mike's out because you definitely don't want anybody hurt, but with Mike out I'll do my best to lead the team and continue to move forward from there," said Wroten. "I've been working on my leadership, shooting, passing and really just trying to be a perfectionist. I'm looking forward to the season."

Wroten started 12 games last season in place of an injured Carter-Williams. He also started on four occasions at shooting guard, a spot which is still being evaluated by the team at training camp. With 25 games last season of 18 or more points, Wroten could add a much-needed lift to this team offensively if given the starting nod.

"I'd definitely slide to the two," said Wroten. "Me and Mike together would be great. … With me and Mike being so tall, we are probably the biggest backcourt in the league. So whoever gets the rebound can bring it, and defensive-wise as well. So I feel like it will be a great, great idea."

Before being named a starter, Wroten must improve upon his shot selection and controlling the ball in order to gain the confidence of Sixers coach Brett Brown and the coaching staff. He shot just 42.7 percent from the field and his 2.8 turnovers per game were second-worst on the team to Carter-Williams' 3.5, but in 10 less minutes a game. His goal, however, is to turn this franchise into a winner again and he wants to be one of the people who were along for the ride in the process.

"It was tough in the beginning [losing], but with Philadelphia I'm more patient than ever because it's a city I love," said Wroten. "As much as we lose, when things turn around the Wells Fargo Center is going to be insane and I can't wait."

JEFF MCMENAMIN
@Jeff_McMenamin
sports@metro.us

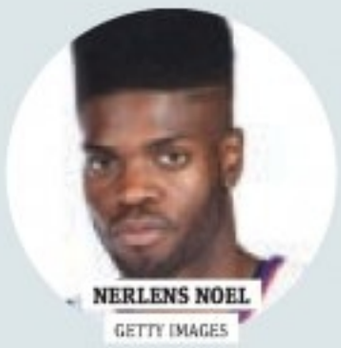
Quoted

"I want to be one of those people that turned things from bad to good here."

Tony Wroten

The first Noel

Noel intends to be top rookie



NERLENS NOEL
GETTY IMAGES

The only Sixers action that Nerlens Noel has seen so far has been in five Summer League games this past July. In those five games, Noel averaged 13.4 points, 5.6 rebounds, 1.8 steals and 2.6 blocks in 26 minutes per game.

Noel sat out all of last season as he recovered from surgery to repair a torn ACL in his left knee. A similar situation happened with Clippers forward Blake Griffin, who broke his left knee cap in 2010. The injury required him to sit out the length of his expected rookie year, only to return in the 2010-11 season to win Rookie of the Year. Noel is not only looking to do the same, but is aiming for another award as well.

"I'd definitely say [winning Rookie of the Year] is one of my personal goals," said Noel. "I do set high expectations for myself and I'd like to win Defensive Player of the Year as well. I do feel like these are possibilities for myself and I think Coach Brown will put me in a good position where I can play my game at a high level."

JEFF MCMENAMIN

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 # 1135 Nina Weldon, # 1226 Nakia Spencer, # 2219 Terray Mcneil, # 2308 Kimberly Holmes, # 3117 Aqeel Smith, # 3323 Carlisle Coleman, # 3324 Bryan Taylor, # 3328 Tracey Marable, # 3350 Deana Ramsey, # 3509 Matthew Edwards Jr, # 3608 Emma Gilliam

Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are Sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Sale is subject to adjournment. Safeguard Self Storage, Inc.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice to hereby given that the undersigned will sell to satisfy the lien of the landlord, at public sale, by competitive bidding on **10/20/14 at 12PM** at the Safeguard Self Storage facility located at **830 E. Hunting Park Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19124.** The personal goods stored in the following space numbers by the following tenant(s):

safeguard self storage

#1210-Sherita Barton • #1314-Thomas Halberman • #1506-Naomi Torres • #2112-Thomas Williams • #2310-Andre Edwards #2313-Hillary Collazo • #2704-Hector Ortiz • #3127-Chaurita Roberts • #3141-Chanel Dawson • #3323-Sheila Watson #3333-David Fernando • #3413-William J Taylor • #3553-Kathleen Lock • #3601-Derek Thomas Jr • #3704-Venetta D Toney

Purchases must be made with cash only and paid in full at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Sale is subject to adjournment. Safeguard Self Storage Management, Inc.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice to hereby given that the undersigned will sell to satisfy the lien of the landlord, at public sale, by competitive bidding on **OCTOBER 20, 2014 @ 3PM** at the Safeguard Self Storage facility located at 1333 Rhawn Street Phila. PA 19111. The personal goods stored in the following space numbers by the following tenant(s):

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#2118-Robert Bergiven, #2220-Jason Loynd, #2621-Keith Oliver

Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are Sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Sale is subject to adjournment. Safeguard Self Storage Management, Inc.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice to hereby given that the undersigned will sell to satisfy the lien of the landlord, at public sale, by competitive bidding on **October 20, 2014 @ 10am** at the Safeguard Self Storage facility located at 6224 Germantown Avenue Phila. PA 19144. The personal goods stored in the following space numbers by the following tenant(s):

safeguard self storage

#0230 - Felita Sotomi, #0305 - Erroll Pearson, #0322 - Lara Brown, #0407 - Reba Hollimon-Harris, #0602 - Kim Watts, #1701 - Marvin Lazenbury, #2107 - Alexis Brewington, #2109 - Joy Terrell, #2119 - Lillian Odrick, #2405 - Tina Dixon, #3305 - Denise McClain, #3417 - Covine Hayden, #3502 - Fred Spells, #3611 - Debra Beckham

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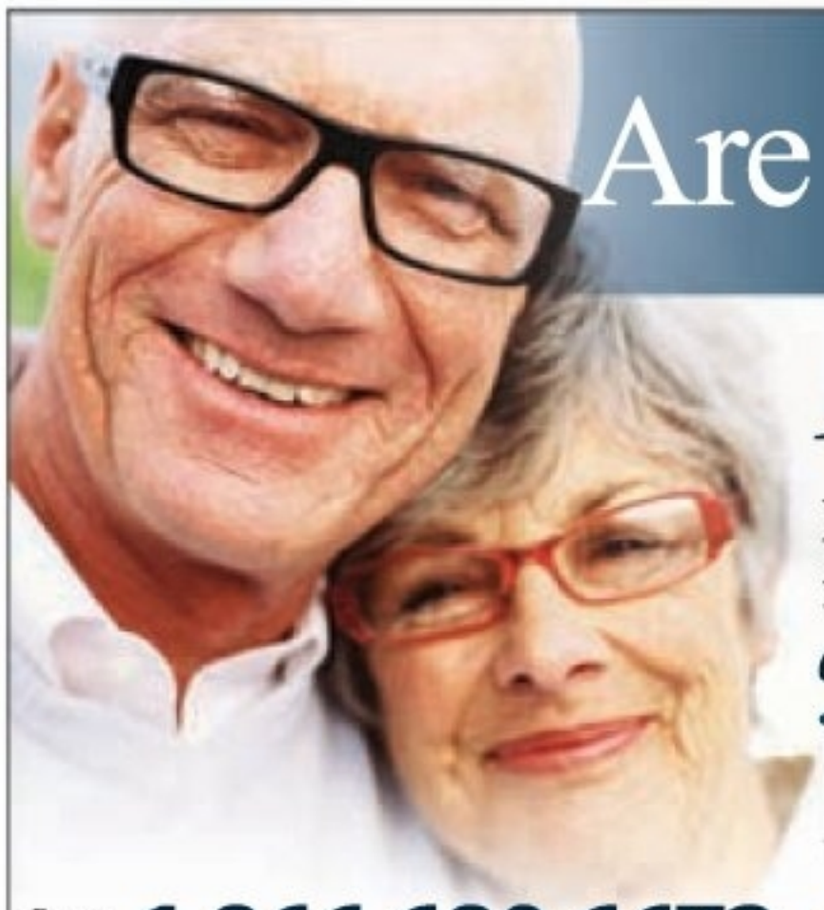

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